Rhees, Rush [President, University of Rochester, N.Y.]

(39)

Rhees, Rush
President, University of Rochester, N.Y.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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M. F. B. 440.

MILITIA AND DEFENCE

In reply please quote

No.

149 College St.,
TORONTO, Oct. 26th. 1917

Miss Paterson,
President's Office
University of Toronto.

Dear Miss Paterson,

I return the letter from the President of Rochester. Mr. Hamilton wrote me, day before yesterday on the subject and I informed him of the procedure he must take in order to obtain leave of absence.

Thanks for sending me the letter.

Yours sincerely,

J M Lang

2/E

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada

My dear Sir Robert:

I am very greatly indebted to you for giving me the name of Captain Hamilton. On returning to Rochester I telegraphed to him at the address you furnished me and he immediately came on to see us. You will not be surprised that he has won us completely and I am happy to say that he has accepted our invitation to take our work of military instruction, subject to the approval of the Canadian military authorities.

He met our whole student body at their annual college banquet last night and captivated everybody.

Again let me express my sense of very great obligation for this service. May I say further that all whom I meet were greatly impressed by your words at Albany last Thursday night?

Wishing you all good and with sincere regard for Lady Falconer, I am

Very truly yours,

Rush Rhees

October
24
1917

October 26th, 1917

President Rush Rhees,

University of Rochester.

Dear President Rhees:

I am very glad to know that you are likely to receive Captain Hamilton. I think that he will undoubtedly be of service to you.

It is very kind of you to speak so kindly of what I said at Albany a week ago. I have had such a sense of relief in feeling that the English-speaking peoples are now united in the one common purpose which will help us all for the future.

With many thanks for your kind message to my wife which I shall be glad to deliver to her, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 17th, 1918

President Rush Rhees,

University of Rochester.

My dear President Rhees:

I have to thank you for your kindness in sending me an invitation to attend the conference which is to be held in Richester on February 21st. I know that I should enjoy greatly being with you and gather much ~~[illegible]~~ suggestion, but I regret that it is impossible for me to accept. Some time ago I promised to speak at the University of Pennsylvania on February 22nd, and my other arrangements are such that I cannot very well stay at Rochester on the way as I promised to arrive in Philadelphia on Thursday afternoon. Again thanking you for your kindness and with best wishes in which I know my wife would join,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Strictly personal

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sir Robert:

It is with greatest distress that I have to ask your assistance in connection with our Captain Hamilton.

He is a man who has won all hearts here on sight, and he has been persona gratissima in all circles in Rochester.

At the outset he got complete possession of our students, and they entered a course of artillery training with great enthusiasm. He had a battery of one hundred and ninety men for his instruction.

Everything went well for the first few months. Of late, however, several circumstances have led us to the conviction that Captain Hamilton is still suffering from the shell shock which he experienced in France.

This conviction results from such facts as the following:

1. He shows a lack of promptness in meeting class appointments that is inexplicable in a man of military training who is in normal condition. He is frequently late to classes, after official reminder of the importance of promptness; and he frequently detains his men after they are due in other classes. This makes exaction of promptness and good discipline on the part of the men very difficult.

This notwithstanding repeated reminders of the importance of such exact records.

2. He maintains no exact record of his students' attention to their work, such as academic conditions require. Nor does he demand regularity of attention to work, allowing men to select such squads or sections as may best suit their convenience. The men lose confidence, therefore, in his discipline and grow careless.

3. In matters of minor discipline, on the other hand, he shows great irritability and sometimes unreasonableness.

4. His work consists in part of lectures and text book instruction. His lecture work is so frequently unprepared and indefinite that his students fail to secure clear ideas from his instruction. He rarely gives definite text book references that can be of real helpfulness to the students.

5. In a recent class he got so confused in explaining a fundamental formula for artillery practice that he condemned as wrong a solution which his text book confirms as right, his explanation of the problem being hardly intelligible.

6. Concentration on any problem for any length of time seems difficult or impossible for him. He wanted to place orders for some "dummy" field pieces. Authority was given therefor months ago. I have reminded him repeatedly that this work should be pushed. His repeated assurances that it was having attention do not correspond with reports from the manufacturer with whom the work was placed, who is held up by lack of decision from Captain Hamilton on some essential matters of construction. Similarly he obtained permission to set up an indoor "range" for sight practice. The work of construction was undertaken. The students have never used the range.

These things are so inexplicable in a man of such distinguished military experience and success, that we are forced to the fear that the nervous disturbance suffered by Captain Hamilton in France is still affecting him. His usefulness with us is unhappily lost, because his men are disheartened by their failure to obtain any definite result of their training. Would it be wise for his Canadian friends to recall him for a new medical examination?

Your very candid reply and counsel will be most welcome.

Very sincerely,

Rudolph Ross

April
13
1918

To Sir Robert Falconer,
The University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada

I assume that you will recognize that I impose this question on your attention solely in the desire to handle the problem in the best way for Captain Hamilton

April 15th, 1918

President Rush Rhees,

University of Rochester.

Dear President Rhees:

I am very sorry to find from your letter that Hamilton has not been giving satisfaction. I am afraid from what you say that it may be one of those tragedies that we shall have to meet in greater frequency as the war lasts. I had, however, not heard anything before that would lead me to suppose that he was not fully competent to do the work that has been given him. I will at once write to his father and ask him to suggest to his son that he might withdraw at the end of the term. Deeply regretting the incident, and with kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Sir Robert Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada

Dear Sir Robert:

I want to say to you with reference to Captain Hamilton that since the beginning of our spring term's work he has taken hold of things with more definiteness and concreteness, making use of facilities which have been provided, and I believe will be able to round out his instruction to the men to a degree that I did not think would be practicable at the time that I wrote you before. I have great hope for the outcome.

I am writing also to his father.

Very sincerely,

Rush Rhees

May
6
1918

May 11th, 1918

President Rush Rhees,

University of Rochester.

Dear President Rhees:

I am glad to know from your letter that Captain Hamilton has been justifying himself in his work in the spring term, and I hope that this will continue.

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 13th, 1918

President Rush Rhees,

University of Rochester,

Rochester, N.Y.

My dear President Rhees:

I am glad to receive your letter and to forward the enclosed to the Minister of Militia with regard to Captain Hamilton. I am particularly glad to know that he has pulled together again and has completed his work satisfactorily.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.